Dedicated to Preserving San Jose's Architectural Heritage

June 22, 2010

Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan Update Task Force 200 E. Santa Clara Street San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Task Force Members:

Preservation Action Council continues to monitor the proceedings of the Task Force, particularly those areas that deal with historic preservation. Please consider the impacts to historic resources as you make your decisions.

The Residential Growth Areas – Village Overlay designation appears to threaten some of our historic neighborhoods. We feel designating a neighborhood as any type of a growth area when the only opportunity for growth would require the removal of historic structures, is not a good concept. We are opposed to any designation that has the potential to negatively impact our historic resources.

Reviewing the maps is difficult and perhaps our concerns will be alleviated as you continue your discussions. However, using the current map, we are concerned that some of the areas designated as Village Overlay may result in negative impacts on historic structures. There should be language in the Plan that is clear about retaining historic structures in these areas and making sure that the new growth is compatible with existing historic structures. Where that is not possible, historic areas should be removed from the Village Overlay.

As you proceed with your review of this subject, we also hope you will be open to including the protection of several categories of historic – not only landmarks, but also historic districts, conservation areas, and at least some structures of merit.

We are concerned that an overlay that indicates "growth" on land use maps may be misleading and possibly undermine the preservation of resources in those areas. Perhaps the category could simply be named "Village Overlay" with the specific details spelled out in the accompanying text.

Please keep us informed of future meetings where Village Overlays will be discussed so we may better understand the direction of the Task Force.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to your careful consideration of any potential impacts to our historic resources.

Sincerely,

Brian Grayson

Executive Director